

Before I say anything else, this is a shocking display of partisanship. CBS will not run an actually verified news story that is unflattering to Bush because they do not want to affect the elections. Sinclair, with ties to CBS, is willing to go out of its way to profoundly affect the elections through biased media, not just for a five minute story, but for 90 minutes. It is an abuse of the power of the media, and absolutely irresponsible.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.